

REMARKS

Claims 1, 18, 36-37, and 45- 70 have been amended. Claims 71 – 77 have been added. Claims 38-44 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Hence, Claims 1 – 37 and 39 - 77 are pending in the Application.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 36 – 70 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c). Applicants have amended Claims 36-37, and 45- 70 to correct informalities. Claims 38-44 have been cancelled, without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1 – 70 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bridge et al. U.S. Patent 5,890,0167 (“Bridge”) in view of Thomson et al. Published US Patent Application No 2004/0034615 (“Thomson”). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that they have amended Claim 1 as follows to emphasize that only one of the listed types of metadata need to be analyzed.

a stored procedure, [[and]] or

Applicants have amended Claim 18 as follows to emphasize that only one of the listed types of metadata need to be extracted.

a stored procedure, [[and]] or

Claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

performing the following in a single atomic operation:

incorporating the data for said one or more items into the target database
by providing said target database access to an incorporated data
file, wherein said incorporated data file is said data file or a copy
thereof; and
incorporating the metadata for said one or more items into the target
database.

Support for the above claim amendment may be found in the specification at least in paragraph 21. Neither Bridge nor Thomson, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the above limitations.

Independent Claim 36 has been amended to include similar limitations as claim 1, and is therefore allowable.

Currently Amended Independent Claim 18 recites, in part:

storing the extracted metadata and data for said one or more items in a module;
analyzing the extracted metadata for dependencies; and
providing the module containing the extracted metadata and the data for said one
or more items to a target database.

Support for the above claim amendment may be found in the specification at least in paragraphs 19 and 62-68. Neither Bridge nor Thomson, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the above limitations. For example, neither Bridge nor Thomson teach or suggest “analyzing the extracted metadata for dependencies,” as claimed.

Independent Claim 53 has been amended to include similar limitations as claim 18, and is therefore allowable.

The pending claims not discussed so far are dependant claims that depend on an independent claim that is discussed above. Because each of the dependant claims include the limitations of claims upon which they depend, the dependant claims are patentable for at least those reasons the claims upon which the dependant claims depend are patentable. Removal of the rejections with respect to the dependant claims and allowance of the dependant claims is respectfully requested. In addition, the dependent claims introduce additional limitations that independently render them patentable. Due to the fundamental difference already identified, a separate discussion of those limitations is not included at this time.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 71 – 77 have been added. Support for the above claim amendment may be found in the specification at least in paragraphs 19 and 62-63. Claims 71 – 77 depend from Claim 18, which is believed to be allowable for reasons already discussed. Therefore, Claims 71 – 77 are allowable.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentable over the art of record, including the art cited but not applied.

Accordingly, allowance of all claims is hereby respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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on 1/4/2007 by Trudy Bagdon